

# Analysis of Auto Encoders for IOT Botnet Detection

**Sai Vasanthi Mandala**

Pursuing Masters in the Stream of Data Science at JNTU Gurajada Vizianagaram Email: [saivasanthimandala@gmail.com](mailto:saivasanthimandala@gmail.com)

IoT Botnet detection utilizing deep-learning algorithms has been extensively researched. Network attacks are continually and dramatically changing, exhibiting new patterns. The use of various autoencoders for IoT Botnet identification has recently increased to reliably and quickly identify unknown attack types (such as zero-day assaults) and to lessen the load of the time-consuming labeling operation. It takes a lot of time and effort to identify the ideal model architecture and hyperparameter values of the autoencoders that produce the best detection performance, even though the autoencoders are effective in detecting new sorts of attacks. This may be a barrier to autoencoder-based IoT Botnet detection in real implementations. We thoroughly examine autoencoders using the benchmark dataset N-Balot to overcome this issue. Using a basic autoencoder model, we compare various model architectures and latent size combinations. The outcomes show that an autoencoder model's latent size can significantly affect the IDS performance.

The global value of the Internet of Things (IoT) devices is predicted to range between \$4 trillion in the low estimate and \$11 trillion in the high estimate by 2025. The growth of IoT technology has brought an increasing number of gadgets into our lives, making system security a top priority. Many of the modern gadgets we use daily, including smartphones, wearable technology, health monitoring devices, etc., produce enormous volumes of private data but have little to no built-in protection. Even if the internet is already difficult to secure, the work is made more difficult by the extra unsecured IoT devices. Any internet-connected device, including mainframes for businesses as well as smartwatches and household smart kitchen appliances, can be compromised by botnets. The free accessibility of the source code for IoT botnets like BASHLITE and Mirai has encouraged hackers to experiment with IoT malware. The IoT malware known as Mirai has led to a revival in IoT malware and has been the cause of significant DDoS assaults. The Mirai botnet, as well as its variations and copycats, essentially served as a wake-up call for the industry to strengthen IoT device security.

The goal of botnets is normally to infect as many devices as they can, and complex botnets can even self-replicate and adapt their behavior to identify and infect devices on their own. Consequently, botnets are incredibly challenging to find. The fact that botnets hide on devices with minimal impact on the device's functionality is another reason why they are challenging to find and contain. For instance, neither the typical user nor a small business may be aware that a security camera is a component of an active botnet. Therefore, it is crucial to distinguish botnets from IoT device traffic. In this, we classify botnet traffic in the IoT context using the dataset from. Nine commercial IoT devices that were attacked by the Mirai and BASHLITE botnets provided the data for this dataset, which contains genuine network traffic information. Three classifiers, Logistic Regression (LR), Support Vector Machines (SVM), and Random Forest (RF), Autoencoder, are used to assess the data, which is then categorized by a botnet, attack, and device.

The security of network systems and information assets from network attacks is crucial, and there are numerous techniques for accomplishing this. Of these, source authentication utilizing cryptography with public keys and message authentication can be used to secure network systems. Now it is simple to determine whether network traffic originates from a reliable source or not due to these encryption techniques. As just a result, we are capable of filtering out malicious traffic from shady sources. Post-quantum public key cryptography is being developed to take its place because conventional public key cryptography will have security issues with the introduction of quantum computing. Intrusion detection systems are a common and efficient defense against network attacks to overcome this constraint.

IoT Botnet detection has recently been established by several research teams employing autoencoders, a generative deep-learning model made up of an encoder and a decoder. When  $M > N$ , the encoder transforms an input  $M$ -dimensional vector into a latent vector represented as an  $N$ -dimensional vector, which

the decoder then reconstructs back to the original M-dimensional vector (see Figure 1). Any input should be recovered as close as feasible to the taught usual patterns by an autoencoder-based IoT botnet detection system that was trained with only typical traffic data. Therefore, if an input instance's reconstruction error exceeds a certain threshold, we can label it as an assault; If not, the input instance can be categorized as normal. In this way, an autoencoder-based IoT Botnet detection system can identify unidentified attack types when their patterns diverge from the recognized typical patterns.

To the best of our knowledge, we are the first to use autoencoders to analyze IoT network traffic for anomalies as a comprehensive way to identify botnet attacks. Even in the broader field of network traffic analysis, autoencoders have not been applied as fully automated standalone malware detectors, but rather as preparatory tools for feature learning or dimensionality reduction, or at most as semimanual outlier detectors that heavily rely on human labeling for subsequent classification or further inspection by security analysts.

We conduct an empirical evaluation with real traffic data, gathered from nine commercial IoT devices infected by real botnets from two families, in contrast to previous experimental studies on the detection of IoT botnets or IoT traffic anomalies, which relied on emulated or simulated data. We look at two of the most prevalent IoT-based botnets, Mirai and BASHLITE, which have already proven their destructive potential.

Previous IoT-related detection studies generally concentrated on the early stages of propagation and communication with the C&C server when examining the operational phases of botnets. However, given that botnet attacks continue to mutate every day and become more complex we predict that some of these mutations may eventually succeed in getting around current early detection strategies. Moreover, when connected to external networks, mobile IoT devices could become infected. For instance, when their owners arrive at airports, smartwatches may connect to suspicious free Wi-Fi networks. As a result, simply monitoring organizational networks to spot early infection signs is insufficient. As a result, we concentrate on the phase of a botnet operation when IoT bots start initiating cyberattacks. In that regard, our solution offers a final degree of security protection. It quickly recognizes IoT-based attacks and lessens their damage by sending out an instantaneous notice that suggests isolating any affected devices from the network until they are cleaned up.

A key distinction between host-based and network-based approaches is noted among the suggested botnet detection methods. Because we cannot rely on IoT manufacturers to install designated host-based anomaly detectors on their products, there is limited access to some IoT devices (such as wearables), so the installation of software on end devices cannot be enforced, and the limited computation and power of most IoT devices place restrictions on the complexity and efficiency of host-based techniques, we believe host-based techniques are less realistic for detecting compromised IoT devices. In the enterprise scenario we assume, where various and numerous IoT devices connect to the organizational network, a single non-distributed solution is preferred. This is because multiple distributed solutions could potentially consume energy and computation from the devices and harm their functionality.

The IoT area is not the only one for which a hierarchical taxonomy of network-based botnet detection methods is presented. One of the sources of detection examined in this study is honeypots. For gathering, comprehending, describing, and tracking botnets, honeypots are frequently utilized. They do not always help with identifying compromised endpoints or the attacks coming from them, though. Additionally, honeypots typically need a sizable expenditure in the acquisition or replication of real devices, data inspection, signature extraction, and mutation monitoring. Accordingly, regular networks serve as a secondary source of detection, and network intrusion detection systems (NIDS) use pattern matching to identify indications of malicious activity by continually and automatically monitoring traffic data. These patterns may rely on honeypot signatures, DNS traffic involving a putative C&C server, data mining of traffic anomalies, or hybrid strategies. Because linked appliances are often task-oriented, we found that the anomaly-based method is most suited for identifying corrupted IoT devices (e.g., specifically designed to detect motion or measure humidity). As a result, they run fewer and maybe simpler network protocols and have less variable traffic than PCs. As a result, spotting changes from their typical patterns ought to be more precise and reliable.

Numerous detection techniques were reviewed; however, no autoencoders nor artificial neural networks were cited. However, they differ from our strategy, have nothing to do with the Internet of Things, and frequently have no direct connection to botnets. Such publications within the broader subject of cybersecurity have been published more recently. As an illustration, and used shallow autoencoders for initial feature learning and dimensionality reduction, Random Forest, Deep Belief



Networks, and Softmax for classification, and then for final fine-tuning. Although outlier detection was included in autoencoders, security analysts still needed to explicitly classify data for later supervised learning. The authors use deep learning to analyze system logs to find insider threats, which is more similar to our method. Unlike us, they rely on further manual scrutiny and use DNNs and RNNs (LSTMs).

Although the majority of the IoT devices in a test set gave the autoencoders in our trials an FPR of zero, the variation in FPR among the remaining IoT devices prompted us to further study our data. The Philips B120N/10 baby monitor had the highest FPR in comparison to the other devices, and it also generated the most traffic (see Table 3), thus one may anticipate that the huge number of training examples would lead to more reliable machine learning models. However, this device also has the widest range of capabilities due to the presence of many sensors for ambient light, temperature, and humidity, a two-way intercom feature, motion detection, and audio detection. This may make it more challenging to observe it acting normally, which could lead to more classification mistakes in subsequent observations.

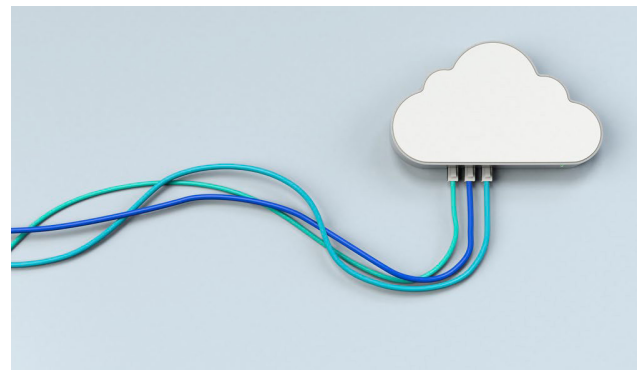
In light of this, we postulate that different IoT devices have varying degrees of difficulty in capturing the usual traffic behavior and that this challenge could be due to (1) the capabilities of the device and (2) network communications typically, results. then, the simplicity of IoT device baseline behavior establishment facilitates Attack detection by anomaly detection. As such Finally, intriguing queries are raised:

- Can the traffic behavior of IoT devices be predicted? quantified?
- Can there be a correlation between the degree of predictability and the features that might be static or dynamic, such as the number and type of sensors, memory size, and operating system? (For instance, the volume of distinct destination IPs per hour, variation of the ratio of incoming to departing traffic) be formalized?
- Can the impact of these characteristics be ranked? this degree of predictability?

We assume that performance metrics for anomaly detection can be easily translated from the predictability of traffic behavior. For instance, an IoT device with high traffic predictability would highlight any aberrant action, causing the TPR to rise and detection times to shorten

in this scenario. From the (harmless) training set, we retrieved static and dynamic features for empirical validation. Afterward, we developed regression models to examine the impact of these features on the test set's average FPR and detection times for the four detection methods we considered. Figures 2c and 2d show our initial conclusions using the characteristics we felt were most important. Figure 2c illustrates how an increase in inbound traffic variability results in a bigger average FPR ( $p\text{-value}=0.019$ ). This makes sense because less predictable situations frequently show up as unusual (but benign) traffic behaviors that are mistakenly labeled as abnormal. Figure 2d demonstrates how longer detection times are encouraged ( $p\text{value}=0.001$ ) by an increase in the maximum amount of inbound traffic. Lower predictability causes larger  $ws^*$  (more instances for majority voting), which in turn causes longer detection times as we optimize  $ws^*$  to achieve 0% FPR on  $DS_{opt}$ .

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## About the Author



**Sai Vasanthi Mandala** worked on power domain projects. Process in KYRGYZSTAN is to test the modules like New Service Connection, Customer Support, Metering, Billing, Payments, Meter Management, Configurations and also the same done in another project 'OSHEE' (Albania) in APDCL (Assam Power Distribution Company Limited) is to test the modules like MDMS (Meter Data Management System), FEP, OSM (Outage Management System), DSM (Demand Side Management), PQM(Power Quality Management), NMS, CP(Customer Portal).

She worked as freelancer in online platforms like User Testing, U-test. Also have good knowledge and Experience in Digital Advertising, Digital marketing. She worked as a Subject Matter Expert in the stream Computer Science.